

U Bremen Research Alliance

Agreement on collaboration between the University of Bremen and non-university research institutes in the Federal State of Bremen

What sets us apart

Together, the University of Bremen and the non-university research institutions in the Federal State of Bremen build a centre of research and higher learning with fast-growing international visibility. In cooperation, they are complementary and mutually reinforce each other's strengths.

In Bremen, the borders between these institutions are dwindling in the course of fruitful everyday collaboration between their members. In a win-win situation, they pool their resources and submit joint funding proposals for what are mostly long-term projects. The result: a centre of research excellence that attracts students and researchers from all over the world.

The parties to this agreement wish to further advance the contents and processes of collaboration beyond existing bilateral projects and contractual arrangements and strengthen the **U Bremen Research Alliance** to the benefit everyone concerned.

Our strengths

Doing science in Bremen benefits greatly from close cooperation among partners: the University of Bremen and the nationally as well as locally financed partner institutes in the region form a close-knit cooperative network with short administrative pathways.

The University and its non-university partner institutes collaborate both in the areas of basic as well as applied research, working on joint projects of high relevance for the future of society as a whole.

In a shared spirit of cooperation, the University and the non-university institutions regularly implement joint appointment procedures and collaborative research projects, jointly structure doctoral programs, and cooperate on the reciprocal use of infrastructures.

Researchers of the non-university partners participate in the delivery of study programs that fit their specific areas of expertise, offering students opportunities for research-based learning as well as practice-based mentoring of degree theses. In turn, these expert practitioners can engage in teaching at the University.

The University appoints professors among these top-level researchers in the context of Cooperation-Professorships. Accounting for one fifth of all professorial appointments, these professors enjoy all the rights of full membership of the University of Bremen and are also empowered to supervise doctoral projects and theses. Individual agreements with regard to the University's Dual Career Program and its "second affiliation" publication policy are also possible.

The University of Bremen sits on many of the governing boards of its non-university partner institutes

(e.g. supervisory boards, boards of trustees, advisory committees), and bilateral agreements are concluded to regulate pertinent issues such as those connected with intellectual property, for instance.

Within the context of the University's high-profile research areas, the non-university partner institutes bring in their special expertise to jointly formulate long-term research agendas and strategically important funding proposals. Such matters are addressed in consultation between the University and the directors of the institutes, and in close cooperation with the Bremen government office responsible for science affairs.

Implementation of the University of Bremen's winning Institutional Strategy submitted in the Excellence Initiative (2012 – 2017) cemented the collaboration between the University and individual non-university research institutes. It led to establishing the Bridge Professorships and Cooperative Junior Research Groups. Co-financed by the non-university institutes, these groups of young researchers are embedded in both institutions. They address topics of future relevance and share the building facilities and equipment on each of the partners' premises.

Our common objective

On the basis of the present agreement, the University and its non-university partner institutions wish to engage in even closer coordination on cross-cutting issues and activities such as the following:

- Long-term research agendas and strategically important funding proposals: for example, the University and its non-university partner institutes wish to further develop the bridge concepts contained in the existing Institutional Strategy with a view to acquiring new funding on the basis of the application to be submitted by the University of Bremen in the third round of the Excellence Initiative.
- Joint marketing of the **U Bremen Research Alliance** with the aim of further enhancing the international visibility and attractiveness of its members in competition for the best minds.
- Development of innovative cooperation models with regard to infrastructures and buildings.
- Joint development of custom-tailored career paths and trajectories for outstanding researchers.
- Further development of Master and PhD programs in the University's high-profile areas.
- Collection of key research data on members of the **U Bremen Research Alliance** in order to communicate its combined strengths.
- Reciprocal use and development of existing service units (e.g. ProUB Graduate Center, Welcome Center, alumni activities, career services) and development of new units where it makes sense to bundle efforts rather than to provide for at each institution.
- Exchange among the institutions represented by the undersigned with regard to research/ knowledge/and technology transfer.

Our working practice

At least once a year, the scientific directors of all members of the institutions represented by the undersigned convene in a **Strategy Council** to consult on the longer-term strategic aspects of the **U Bremen Research Alliance**.

In addition to this and on a regular basis, the administrative heads of the non-university institutions and the University's Director of Finance and Administration convene in an **Administration and Infrastructure Group** to exchange views as well as to develop and implement mutual activities.

Overall cooperation among the parties to this agreement is coordinated by a **Management Circle** encompassing the scientific directors and administrative heads of the participating partners. The Management Circle meets once a year to prioritize and discuss multilateral collaboration projects, conclude an annual work program, and to task working groups with implementation of the planned joint projects in collaboration with the institutions concerned. Moreover, the Management Circle monitors progress in connection with the present agreement and where necessary, especially with regard to working practice, introduces accordant changes.

Meetings of the Management Circle are jointly chaired by the Rector of the University of Bremen and the head of one of the non-university institutes, who is newly elected each year from among their members. The Strategy Council may in future invite additional research institutions to join the alliance. The collaborative projects undertaken by members of the **U Bremen Research Alliance** are carried out within the research context of the high-profile areas to which the respective researchers belong. Where necessary, the **Spokespersons Conference** of the high-profile areas consults on matters with the Strategy Council.

The Management Circle appoints separate **Working Groups** to move forward the conceptual development and implementation of individual collaborative activities. These groups may include representatives from both the scientific as well as the administrative side and are formed for limited periods only.

The parties to this agreement fund jointly the cooperative activities undertaken in their mutual interest; such matters are the subject of separate arrangements.

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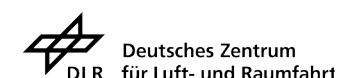
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**Structure of cooperation between the University of Bremen
and non-university institutes in the Federal State of Bremen**

